

PREVENTING FUTURE DISASTERS

(Mr. BARROW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARROW. Madam Speaker, this weekend marks the first anniversary of the combustible dust explosion at the Imperial Sugar Refinery in Savannah, Georgia.

What we learned in my community since this disaster hit is that the experts have known about this problem for decades. The private sector has developed standards that effectively deal with this problem, but the public sector hasn't responded. The trouble is not enough people know about the problem, much less the solutions, and those who do know about the solutions aren't required to adopt them.

The only standards that are mandatory really are not designed with this problem in the first place, and so they aren't working. The result is we have good standards that are not mandatory and inadequate standards that are mandatory. It ought to be the other way around.

Today I am reintroducing legislation we passed in the last Congress, legislation that will take such upside-down policy and flip it right side up.

On the anniversary of this latest disaster, our thoughts and prayers go out to the folks who are still suffering from their losses and injuries. But our work to fix what is broken with our regulatory system should continue until we have done everything that we reasonably can to prevent any such disasters from ever happening again.

GIVING VOICE TO THE UNBORN

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

We all know this quote, Madam Speaker, and it is no accident that life is mentioned first. It is our most basic right given to us only by our Creator.

Every life is a gift given to us by the grace of God, and there can be no doubt that life begins at the moment of conception. But as I stand before you today, my heart breaks for the faces that are missing because they were never born.

Madam Speaker, I pray for the men and women throughout this country and the world who are expecting a child and they believe they are in an impossible situation. I hope they would understand that with God, all things are possible.

We recently saw thousands descend upon the Supreme Court to stand up for the rights of the unborn. To them, and all those who work every day to give a voice to the unborn, I say thank you and God bless.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY PACKAGE

(Mr. SIREs asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIREs. Madam Speaker, last week American companies announced that they will be laying off more than 102,000 employees in the coming weeks.

The economic situation is clearly getting worse, and Congressional Democrats are taking steps to get people back to work and to save jobs that without action will be lost in the next few months.

Last week, the House passed legislation that will save and create 3 to 4 million jobs. We will create nearly half a million jobs by investing in clean energy. Our economic package also puts nearly 400,000 people to work repairing crumbling roads, bridges and schools.

In another effort to jump start our economy, it also gives 95 percent of Americans an immediate tax cut.

Madam Speaker, economists told us that we needed to act boldly and swiftly to address our Nation's troubled economy. This week, the Senate must pass the economic recovery package so that we can begin the long process of turning this economy around. Failure to act, as some on the other side of the aisle seem to be more happy to do, is simply not an option.

STIMULUS MUST STIMULATE ECONOMY

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I believe that there is broad bipartisan consensus in this House that we must act to stimulate our economy. And actually, the vote last week indicated that there is a bipartisan belief that we can do better.

I have talked to my constituents, to local school districts, and local government and business leaders, and the consensus is that we must do better.

Too many programs were included in that bill that will not stimulate our economy. When we are borrowing money from our children and grandchildren, we have a responsibility to make certain that the plan will work, that it will create jobs, and that it will help get our economy moving.

President Obama has reached out his hand asking for bipartisan cooperation, and many of us are ready to answer his call. I believe that we can create a bill along the broad outlines put forward by the President and pass such a bill with strong bipartisan support. All it will take is the majority including good ideas and putting aside other non-stimulative policy goals for another day. We can get this done, and for the sake of our economy and the American people, I hope that we will get it done.

CHIP PASSAGE DEMONSTRATES CHANGE

(Mrs. HALVORSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, the American people have heard a lot about change these days, but exactly what will that change be and what will it mean to them?

Well, today, real change will come to Washington when this House passes an expansion of the Children's Health Insurance Program. This is legislation that will have a direct impact on children in our country.

When we pass this bill today, an additional 4 million children living without health insurance will soon be able to afford seeing a doctor. Congress has worked hard to pass this legislation twice, sending it to President Bush, and both times he vetoed this bill. But now, change has come to Washington.

Today, the House will pass legislation very similar to what President Bush vetoed twice; only this time, we will reach a total of 11 million children. And President Obama is expected to sign this bill later today.

This is change we can believe in, and that's going to mean a lot to the 4 million children who will now be able to see a doctor when they are sick.

STIMULATE PRODUCTIVE SECTOR

(Mr. MCCLINTOCK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, the mantra that we keep hearing from the left, that we just heard from the gentleman from New Jersey, that government rather than the productive sector needs to create more jobs.

Well, according to our new President and Members of this House, the \$825 billion spending bill is going to create 3 million new jobs. I thought that sounded pretty good in an economy that is hurting like ours until I pulled out a pocket calculator and did the math: 3 million new jobs for \$825 billion, that comes to \$275,000 per job. That's by the President's own numbers, \$275,000 that will have to be paid back, with interest, by average Americans for every job that he himself says will be created.

Madam Speaker, we do not need to stimulate government. Government continues to grow just fine. We need to stimulate the productive sector, and the best way to do that is to get off its back.

SAVING CHILDREN'S LIVES

(Mr. GRAYSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Speaker, I have five children, two of them are 3-year-olds who were born prematurely. They were in the hospital for a long time. They were on respirators for a